

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 PC-01 AID-05 HA-05

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04 NSAE-00

SIL-01 IO-13 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ARA-10 /133 W

-----074277 101652Z /46

R 101500Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY BAMA KO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9996

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BAMA KO 3246

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ML

SUBJECT: CONSTITUTIVE CONGRESS OF MALIAN YOUTH

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SUMMARY. CONSTITUTIVE CONGRESS OF NATIONAL UNION OF MALIAN YOUTH (UNJM) CULMINATES AN EIGHT-MONTH MALIAN GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL YOUTH ORGANIZATION AND DRAW ALL ELEMENTS OF MALIAN YOUTH INTO IT. ALTHOUGH MALIAN YOUTH WILL CONTINUE TO POST PROBLEMS TO THEIR GOVERNMENT, NEW OPENNESS OF POLITICAL DIA-LOGUE MAY YET ASSURE SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION BETWEEN THEM. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NATIONAL UNION OF MALIAN YOUTH HELD ITS CONSTITUTIVE CON-  
GRESS JUNE 26-29. THREE HUNDRED DELEGATES FROM MALI'S SEVEN RE-  
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GIONS HEARD SPEECHES, ARGUED OVER WORKING PAPERS, AND ELECTED A NATIONAL BUREAU. SECRETARY GENERAL OF UNJM IS SADA SAMAKE, A COUNSELOR FOR THE BAMA KO NATIONAL DISTRICT. MOST OF THE REST OF THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU ARE, SIMILARLY, YOUNG BUREAUCRATS OR PRO-FESSORS. THERE ARE ONLY TWO STUDENTS ON THE BUREAU, WITH ONE OF THEM, BINTOU MAIGA, THE SOLE FEMALE.

3. CONGRESS IS CULMINATION OF MAJOR GOVERNMENT EFFORT TO ESTABLISH SINGLE NATIONAL YOUTH MOVEMENT IN MALI. ON NOVEMBER 1, 1977 PRESIDENT TRAORE LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN TO SET UP UNJM AND IN FOLLOWING MONTH THE THEN MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORTS, ARTS, AND CULTURE TOURED COUNTRY FROM ONE END TO OTHER SETTING UP LOCAL MACHINERY. SCHOOL HOLIDAYS END OF DECEMBER BROUGHT YOUTH WEEK TO ALL REGIONAL CENTERS AS YOUTH COMPETED IN SPORTS, DANCE, ART, AND DRAMA. FOLLOWING HIS APPOINTMENT JANUARY 7, 1978, NEW MINISTER OF EDUCATION LEEUTENANT COLONEL YOUSOUF TRAORE MET AT LENGTH WITH STUDENTS IN HIGH SCHOOLS AND HIGH EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTES ACROSS MALI. MINISTER LISTENED TO STUDENT VIEWS AND COMPLAINTS BUT ALSO FIRMLY REMINDED THEM OF THEIR PRIMARY DUTY TO SCHOLARSHIP. HE SET UP REGULAR MEETINGS WITH EXECUTIVE BUREAU OF THE ALREADY ESTABLISHED NATIONAL UNION OF MALIAN STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS (UNEEM). END UNCLASSIFIED, BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL.

4. NEW MINISTER'S VIEWS. APPOINTED MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORTS, ARTS, AND CULTURE IN JANUARY, ALIOUNE BLONDIN BEYE HARELY HAD TIME TO PICK UP THE REINS OF OFFICE BEFORE POLITICAL UPHEAVALS EVENTUATED IN ANOTHER MINISTERIAL SHUFFLE WHICH MADE HIM MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND WHICH SET ALPAH KONARE IN THE CHAIR AS MINISTER OF YOUTH, SPORTS, ARTS, AND CULTURE. IN PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH AMBASSADOR AND PAO AND WITH POL OFF, KONARE HAS INDICATED THAT HE CONSIDERS HIS JOB FEASIBLE ONLY BECAUSE MALI HAS EMERGED FROM PRE-FEBRUARY 28 ATMOSPHERE OF POLITICAL REPRESSION. HE SAID HE TOOK THE JOB ON CONDITION THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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YOUTH BE FREE TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS IN NATIONAL POLITICAL DIALOGUE. THE POOR MALIAN PEOPLE BEAR TOO MUCH NOT TO HAVE AT LEAST THE RIGHT TO SPEAK THEIR MINDS, HE INSISTED. DISCUSSION IN YOUTH CONGRESS HAD TO BE ENTIRELY FREE AND OPEN, KONARE SAID. ONLY THIS COULD YOUTH BE EXPECTED TO COOPERATE IN A NATION-BUILDING EFFORT.

5. STUDENTS' DILEMMA. NATIONAL UNION OF MALIAN STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS (UNEEM) FACES DILEMMA AS RESULT OF THE CREATION OF THE UNJM UMBRELLA YOUTH ORGANIZATION. THE STUDENT UNION, PREVIOUSLY THE SOLE VOICE OF YOUTH, COULD FOCUS DEMANDS ON STUDENT NEEDS. UNJM BY-LAWS PURPOSELY WATER DOWN STUDENT REPRESENTATION IN ITS ORGANIZATION. OF 16 REPRESENTATIVES FROM BAMA KO DISTRICT TO THE CONSTITUTIVE CONGRESS, ONLY 4 WERE REPRESENTATIVES OF UNEEM IN BAMA KO. IN ITS JANUARY 21 ANNUAL MEETING, UNEEM PROCLAIMED ITS COMPLETE AND ENTIRE AUTONOMY FROM UNJM, WITH WHICH IT CLAIMED TO BE ASSOCIATED ONLY FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES. UNEEM RESOLUTIONS ALSO ASKED THAT UNEEM SECTIONS BE DETACHED FROM THE GEOGRAPHICAL UNJM SECTIONS TO WHICH THEY ARE NOW SUBORDINATE. YET, UNEEM IS FORCED TO WORK WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNJM OR BECOME AN UNDERGROUND OPPOSITION GROUP AND LOSE PEROGATIVES WHICH POLICY COOPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT WOULD BRING.

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6. CONGRESS DEBATE. CONGRESS OPENED WITH BRILLIANT SPEECH IN WHICH MINISTER KONARE TIEED YOUTH TO THEIR MALIAN TRADITIONS BUT OPENED HOPE OF NEW POLITICAL FUTURE. YOUTH WERE THEN TO STUDY STATUTES AND BY-LAWS AND REVIEW WORKING PAPER ON MALIAN YOUTH DRAFTED BY MINISTRY'S NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF YOUTH. BUT STUDENTS, FIRED WITH ENTHUSIASM AND UNIQUE CHANCE TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES, DISCUSSED EVERYTHING AND AT LENGTH. ARGUMENTS AND DEBATES LASTED LONG INTO THE NIGHT AND STRAIGHT THROUGH THE SACROSANCT NOON HOUR. STUDENTS VENTED RADICAL SLOGANS INCLUDING THE CRY, "AWAY WITH THE MILITARY BLOCKHEADS." PRESIDENT TRAORE AND THE RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE SEEMED TO HAVE TAKEN ALL THIS IN RELATIVELY GOOD HUMOR. IN HIS CONCLUDING ADDRESS, PRESIDENT TRAORE PRAISED THE IMAGINATIVE, CREATIVE, AND MOBILIZING SPIRIT WHICH CHARACTERIZED DEBATES.

7. YOUTH - UDPM'S RADICAL ARM. PRESIDENT TRAORE NOTED IN HIS

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CONCLUDING REMARKS THAT MALIAN YOUTH WOULD GIVE MALIAN POLITICS ITS LUSTRE. FINAL RESOLUTION OF THE UNJM CONGRESS NOTES THAT THE UNJM MUST BE AN ORGANIZATION OF THE AVANT-GARDE. THE RESOLUTION TAKES POSITIONS ON INTERNATIONAL ISSUES, SUCH AS THE CONDEMNATION OF THE INTER-AFRICAN FORCE IN SHABA, WHICH MIGHT BE SOMEWHAT MORE RADICAL THAN THE OFFICIAL MALIAN LINE. MINISTER OF YOUTH HAS ALREADY INDICATED THAT MALI WILL PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE HAVANA YOUTH CONGRESS. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THIS POSITION WAS CHANGED AFTER A RECENT VISIT BY SPECIAL EMISSARY FROM PRESIDENT SENGHOR TO URGE BOYCOTT OF THE YOUTH FESTIVAL. FROM PRELIMINARY EVIDENCE, IT APPEARS THAT THE UNJM MAY HAVE MORE OF A LESTIST ORIENTATION THAN THE OTHER PRINCIPAL MALIAN SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS, THE LABOR UNIONS AND WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION.

8. CONCLUSION IT IS REMARKABLE THAT THE FIRST MALIAN YOUTH CONGRESS HAS SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED AFTER SO MANY ABORTIVE ATTEMPTS. THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT UNDER PRESIDENT TRAORE'S LEADERSHIP IS OBVIOUSLY MORE RLAXED ABOUT YOUTH SPEAKING THEIR MIND THEN THE PRE-FEBRUARY 28, 1978 GOVERNMENT, IN WHICH THE INFLUENCE OF FORMER MINISTER OF DEFENSE DOUKARA AND DIRECTOR OF SECURITY SERVICES BAGAYOKO WAS DOMINANT. THE ABILITY OF THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT TO GIVE YOUTH A BIT OF FREEDOM MAY BE THE KEY TO EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION BETWEEN MALI'S RESTLESS YOUTH AND ITS MORE CONSERVATIVE GOVERNMENT.  
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## Message Attributes

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